

B'nai Mitzvah Letter of Agreement

Dear B'nai Mitzvah Parents:

As your child or children get closer to celebrating their Bar/Bat Mitzvah we want to clarify the requirements needed from your family to insure that this is a rewarding and positive experience for all of us. We believe becoming a Bar or Bat Mitzvah is an important step in your child's Jewish education and want to make it as meaningful as possible.

During the earlier years of Hebrew Study (Kitah Aleph, Bet and Gimmel) the child may use a tutor instead of attending the Hebrew classes on Wednesday afternoons. For the last year of preparation for the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service the child must be enrolled in our Kitah Daled and B'nai Mitzvah classes at the start of the school year. To enroll in this class the student must be able to read fluently the Yotzer, Ma'ariv, V'ahavta and the Amidah prayers.

Attendance in both religious school and the Hebrew school program are essential. We require **a minimum of 60% attendance for each program** during this year of study. We also require the student to attend at least one Shabbat service a month the 6 months prior to the Bar/Bat Mitzvah service. Attendance can be at a Friday night or Saturday morning service and can also be at other synagogues. If you are attending services in other communities please let Rabbi Greenbaum know. While the student is required to attend these services, parents are encouraged to join them.

Your child will receive his/her Torah portion approximately 6 months before the Bar/Bat Mitzvah weekend and the Haftarah portion 3 months in advance. Our goal is to have each child chant a minimum of 3 Aliyahs (approximately 10-12 verses of Torah) and a few verses of Haftarah in Hebrew. The student writes a speech (drash) explaining their personal understanding of the parsha as well as what this milestone event means to him or her. Finally, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah is expected to engage in a Mitzvah project. He/she should make a commitment to do a social action activity. This activity should be discussed with the rabbi and can be included in the speech written by the Bar/Bat Mitzvah student.

If attendance in our classes or the progress of the student does not meet our minimum needs, we will require a postponement of your child's Bar/Bat Mitzvah date. If you have any questions regarding this letter of agreement please do not hesitate to contact one of us. Otherwise please keep a copy of this letter for yourself and sign and return this letter to the congregation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Bruce D. Greenbaum

Louise Riddell-Kaufman, RJE

Cantor Alisa Fineman

Parent Name (please print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____